

**AN ORDINANCE BY COUNCILMEMBER H. LAMAR WILLIS
AS SUBSTITUTED BY:
FINANCE/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

AN ORDINANCE ADDING ARTICLE III, SECTION 43 TO CHAPTER 42 OF THE ATLANTA CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES "CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS" TO SUPPORT HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES BY INSTALLING DONATION METERS AND DISTRIBUTING CONTRIBUTION BOXES TO COLLECT DONATIONS FOR LOCAL HOMELESSNESS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, homelessness is a significant issue confronting the City of Atlanta;
and

WHEREAS, charitable donations of money should be directed towards aiding the homeless, rather than aiding "professional" panhandlers, those who are not homeless, or individuals who may be trying to fund their substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, parking meters which are designated as donation meters can be used to collect donations which will be forwarded to homelessness service organizations, while providing the public with an alternative to donating to panhandlers; and

WHEREAS, the parking meters designated as donation meters will bring heightened awareness to homelessness issues in Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, local organizations in Atlanta with a recognized interest in reducing panhandling have indicated their plans to financially support the installation of such donation meters; and

WHEREAS, contribution boxes placed at local businesses on a designated day can also increase public awareness of homelessness in Atlanta and can provide organizations that provide services to the homeless additional charitable funds; and

WHEREAS, residents and tourists alike may wish to make charitable contributions to organizations that provide services to the homeless community of Atlanta but are reluctant to donate to panhandlers; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds collected through the designated parking meters and contribution boxes will go directly towards nonprofit organization committed to helping relieve homelessness in Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Commission on Homelessness has a mission to end, not merely manage, long-term homelessness and has successfully rallied commitment and involvement all parts of the Atlanta community, including government, faith, civic

and nonprofit organizations, private individuals, and the business and philanthropic communities; and

WHEREAS, based on its commitment and its position as a core body in eliminating homelessness in Atlanta, the Regional Commission on Homelessness is recognized as the most qualified organization to assist in managing funds collected from this homeless initiative; and

WHEREAS, since money will be diverted away from panhandlers, panhandling will be discouraged as there will be a smaller economic incentive to solicit donations; and

WHEREAS, cities across the country such as Athens, GA; Memphis, TN; Nashville, TN; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; West Palm Beach, FL; and Sacramento, CA have converted parking meters into collection devices for homelessness organizations, and have effectively raised the public's awareness of the problem while collecting significant contributions; and

WHEREAS, by providing an appropriate alternative avenue for donation through the donation meters and the contribution boxes, those wishing to make a charitable contribution to the poor and homeless can be assured their donation is used to support homelessness initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1

The Code of Ordinances, City of Atlanta, Georgia, is hereby amended by adding Article III, Chapter 42 to be numbered Section 42-43, which section reads as follows:

ARTICLE III. ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR CHARITABLE SOLICITATION.

Sec.42-43

(a) Donation Meters.

- (1) Parking meters shall be installed throughout the City of Atlanta and designated as "Giving Meters." The "Giving Meters" shall be painted so that they are distinguished from regular parking meters. A sign shall also be permanently affixed to each of the "Giving Meters," identifying it as a donation meter and that all proceeds collected in the meter will be donated to the homelessness service organizations in Atlanta, which conform to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

- (2) The parking enforcement staff from the Department of Public Works shall be authorized to collect the funds from the "Giving Meters" periodically in conformance with the Department of Public Works' current procedure for collecting revenue from parking meters.
- (3) All proceeds collected from the "Giving Meters" shall be distributed on an annual basis by city council. The Regional Commission on Homelessness (hereinafter referred to as the RCH) shall be authorized to draft grant applications to be approved by the city council. Said applications must include inquiries regarding the financial status of the organization, its history of providing services to the homeless of Atlanta, and a requirement that how disbursed funds from the parking meters are applied must be reported to the RCH. Upon approval of said applications, the RCH shall be authorized to review completed applications from 501 (c)(3) organizations that provide services to the homeless in the City of Atlanta. Based upon its review of the applications, the RCH shall recommend to city council how collected funds should be distributed among qualified applicants. After reviewing all recommendations, the city council shall vote and determine how funds shall be distributed among the qualified organizations. Said review process shall take place annually and selected organizations shall receive disbursements the January following the selection period.

(b) Contribution Boxes.

- (1) On one designated Homeless Persons Memorial Day per year, contribution boxes shall be distributed to various businesses, restaurants, and retail establishments throughout the City of Atlanta at their election and shall be placed inside each establishment for the purpose of collecting donations for the poor and homeless. Signs shall be affixed to the contribution boxes explaining that 100% of the donations will be directed to homelessness service organizations.
- (2) All proceeds collected from the contribution boxes shall be distributed on an annual basis by city council. The Regional Commission on Homelessness (hereinafter referred to as the RCH) shall be authorized to draft grant applications to be approved by the city council. Said applications must include inquiries regarding the financial status of the organization, its history of providing services to the homeless of Atlanta, and a requirement that how disbursed funds from the parking meters are applied must be reported to the RCH. Upon approval of said applications, the RCH shall be authorized to review completed applications from 501 (c)(3) organizations that provide services to the homeless in the City of Atlanta. Based upon its review of the applications, the RCH shall recommend to city council how collected

funds should be distributed among qualified applicants. After reviewing all recommendations, the city council shall vote and determine how funds shall be distributed among the qualified organizations. Said review process shall take place annually and selected organizations shall receive disbursements the January following the selection period.

SECTION 2

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 3

This ordinance shall go into effect immediately upon the Mayor's approval.